

THE

## COMBINATION,

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F R A N C E.

**I**T is impossible for any thing to be more astonishing than the impudence of the understrappers and retainers of the Ministry. Nothing can equal the insolent falsehoods they are daily inventing and propagating, in order to delude the country deeper and deeper into a most wicked, dangerous, and destructive war. They have the assurance to tell us that Wimpfen is marching to Paris at the head of 45,000 men, at a time when it is well known that the departmental army of Calvados has been disbanded, and Wimpfen himself has fled—that 40,000 Marseillois are in full march against the Convention, when their force is only about a tenth part of that number, and they driven from Avignon—that the rebels in la Vendée, which consist only of a few thousands of ruffians lurking in the woods, are 180,000 strong; and at the very time these banditti are defeated, and hundreds of them killed, our honest politicians invent methodistical letters, stating that the enthusiasts have triumphed over, and destroyed thousands of the Republicans—that France is in a state of universal anarchy, when France is almost unanimously establishing its new Constitution—that the Combined Armies are on the point of swallowing up and conquering all the country, at a time when the Combined Armies have not taken possession of more than about a thousandth part of the Republic. Ten times have they detailed, in pompous and inflammatory language, the massacre or assassination of the *ci devant* Queen of France, and her unfortunate family; and more than a thousand accounts have they invented of plots, massacres and assassinations, which existed no where but in their own wishes and imaginations.

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They amuse the public with the idea of wonderful, deep, and secret schemes of the ministry, which are to take effect and astonish the world. A mighty fleet is fitted out and puts to sea. It is to take Brest, or Nantes, or Rochefort, or Rochelle; or it is to take, burn, sink and destroy the fleet of the Republic; or it is to take a convoy of 200 sail from the West Indies. But lo! this mighty fleet just gets a sight of the fleet of France and returns! This reminds one of the fable. A mighty mountain was in labour; it was surrounded by a gaping and wondering world, who came to be witnesses of the event, and the mountain brought forth—a mouse!

Why then will not the Public be undeceived? If men will give any credit to the opinion of that great statesman Mr. Fox, (and they may very safely do it) they will at once conclude that the French Republic cannot be conquered by the Combined Powers. During the last session of Parliament Mr. Fox, more than once gave it as his decided opinion that though the French should lose battle after battle, and town after town, yet in the end they will establish their liberty. A few references to past events will have a tendency to strengthen this opinion.

Darius, King of Persia, sent two powerful armies to destroy the small Republic of Athens. These armies were commanded by Mardonius, and one of them was ruined by the Thracians; the other, consisting of three hundred thousand men, was totally defeated by Miltiades, and 11,000 Athenians, at Marathon. Xerxes, the son and successor of Darius, in order to revenge these losses, and the disgrace attending them, raised an army of more than two millions and an half of men, with which he passed over into the Grecian Republic, and for a long time carried all before him, by means of this numerous army, in so much that the Athenians were obliged to desert their city, and put their families and their property on board their fleet. But notwithstanding this grievous calamity, which the Greeks must many of them have concluded at that time, would end in the ruin of themselves and country, the Sons of Liberty prevailed, and the Persians received such defeats from Leonidas at Thermopylae, Themistocles at the Straights of Salamis (in the fleet), and Aristides at Plataea, destroyed the army of Xerxes, and obliged him to run home in a fright; and this King, who came with 3000 ships, repassed the Hellespont in a fish-boat. Xerxes's confederates, the Carthaginians, were at the same time defeated by Gelo in Sicily, with the loss of their entire fleet and army, composed of near 300 ships, and 300,000 men. Thus the Republic or Repub-

lics of Greece withstood and prevailed against the whole power of Asia; and Greece was not conquered till it was attacked by a people more free than the Greeks, i. e. the Romans.

One of the most formidable and dreadful of the enemies of Rome was Hannibal, the famous General of the Carthaginians. He gave them a great defeat under Scipio, at Ticinum. A second under Sempronius, at Trebia. A third under Flaminius, at the Lake Trasimenees, in Etruria. A fourth under Paulus and Varro, at Cannæ. At one time Hannibal, encamped within three miles of Rome, took a view of the city from Mount Algidus, and put the silversmiths shops up at auction in his camp before he had taken them. Fabius discovered, that the way to conquer Hannibal was to decline fighting. He hovered round him on the mountains, and by their perseverance the Romans got this dangerous enemy out of their country, after he had laid in its bowels several years Rome was only conquered by those worst of human evils, its own Emperors.

I might mention several other countries, such as Holland, Switzerland, America, &c. &c. where despotism has been worsted by the Spirit of Freedom. These are instances and examples from which Tyrants ought to learn that Liberty is invincible, and that the efforts used against it always have, and ever will turn to the confusion of its enemies.

Some people are weak enough to believe that France is ruined, and will be obliged to yield, through want of money to support the war. This idea is assiduously propagated by the Ministerial hirelings, though nothing can be more false and absurd. Their assignats are an inexhaustible source; and to such an object that the credit of these assignats is not good, I would remark, that when Hannibal was in Italy money was so scarce among the Romans that they were obliged to coin twelve *Æ's* or *As's* out of one thereby increasing the value of their coin twelve times. And may it be remembered, that in the year 1782 the value of the paper dollar in America was only about threepence; yet both Rome and America succeeded against their oppressors. Let men seriously consider these things, and they will not only see the folly and absurdity of the crusade against France, but they will find great difficulty in reconciling their consciences to the encouragement and support of a scheme which has for its end the re-establishment of Despotism, and all the trumpery of Popery over that country.

We are continually told of the calamities which have attended the Revolution in France. It is true accidents and misfortunes have attended it, but not so many or so great as might



might have been expected, when we reflect on the characters and dispositions of the parties who have taken the resolution to disgrace, and, if possible, to ruin the revolution. But I will be bold to assert, that the calamities which France has suffered are not sufficient to balance the benefits it has already derived from it; and what may not be expected if they should be left alone to establish themselves in peace and security? The objections to the French Revolution, on account of the disadvantages which *now* attend it, are altogether mean, pitiful, and cowardly. I shall illustrate this assertion by an argument. When London was burnt in the year 1666, no doubt the then Inhabitants considered that fire as a very dreadful calamity; but that fire destroyed the old wooden rubbishy houses; cleared the city of the infection of the plague, which was then lurking in it; the streets and houses were built in a much better and more wholesome manner; and every succeeding generation has reaped immense benefit from that calamitous event: and had the city been rebuilt on the excellent plan of that celebrated Architect Sir Christopher Wren, it would this day have been the wonder and admiration of the world.

The case of the French Revolution is in many respects similar to this in a comparative sense. The old rubbish of Government is taken away; accidents, it is true, have attended its removal; but if the new structure is raised by wise master-builders, the immense benefits to be derived from the change will be felt to the latest posterity.

Notwithstanding all that is said concerning the crimes of the French, the ground of their proceedings is good, and Providence seems to favour them. Either Providence or nature fought with them last year against the Prussians at Argonne and in Champagne: and now that the whole *Christian World* has combined in a most *Christian-like manner*, to starve the inhabitants of France (millions of whom do not know the difference between their right hand and their left, and consequently can be guilty of no crime), their fields have produced a more abundant harvest than has been seen, by the oldest man in the country. The advice of Gamaliel (Acts v, 38, 39) is excellently adapted for many occasions, and it never could have been followed with greater propriety than in regard to the French Revolution. *I say unto you, refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this word be of men it will come to nought: but if it be of God ye cannot overthrow it, lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.*

A DEMOCRAT.

London, 9th August, 1793.

